



The Grace Vine

February 2008

Rector's Writ

Annual meetings are over and budgets are approved, we Episcopalians make the effort to lead our focus back to spiritual matters. The Ash Wednesday liturgy invites us to tune our inner compass and outer lives to "the observance of a holy Lent." The word 'observance' is somewhat deceptive because it sounds so do-able. Anyone can OBSERVE, right? We observe that it stays light a little longer each day. During Lent we observe the tone of worship is more solemn, and there are no flowers on the altar.

Yet in our observance of a holy lent, we're called beyond what we can see. We're called to make a commitment from within by "self examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; by reading and meditating on God's holy word." The irony of this inner commitment is that it opens us to God's presence, holy mysteries, and grace at work in our worship, our relationships, and our lives.

Whenever we are disciplined enough or bold enough to do this annual inspection and reflection, we realize there are a few gaps in our lives. We sin and miss the mark, and all that can fill those gaps is the grace of God. We find hope and meaning, not in what we turn away from or take on during Lent, but in the LORD WE TURN TOWARD in worship, faith, and humility. Our penitence is answered with God's forgiveness...our reflection with God's guidance...our hope with God's grace. An old work, Little Book of Contemplation, has a meditation reminding us of the source and reason for our hope.

"I thank you, O Lord, because You have made me after Your own image...that I should always be mindful of You, think upon You, and love You. But..my selfishness has so defaced your image within me that I cannot accomplish the purpose of my being except You continually renew and reform me. ...Grant that I may comprehend the magnitude of Your boundless love. So great is that charity that nothing greater or better can be conceived. You are righteous, truthful, blessed.

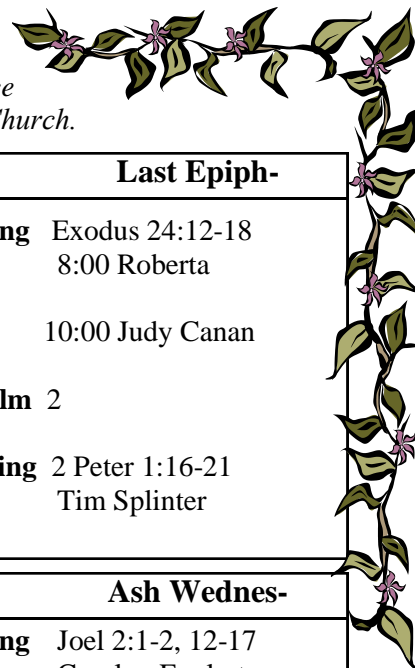
In that You are righteous above all comparison, how do You spare (us)?... Although You are completely and exceedingly righteous, yet You are gentle toward sinners because You are completely and exceedingly good. ...Hence, the cause of the divine mercy is the complete and exceeding goodness of God."

Trusting in that goodness, may we each observe a holy Lent.



Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

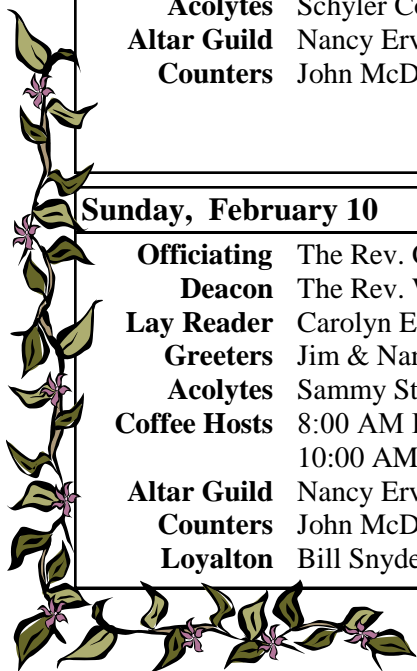
If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.



Sunday, February 3		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Last Epiph-
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading Exodus 24:12-18 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Judy Canan	Psalm 2
Lay Reader	Bette Brooks		
Greeters	Judy & Kay Canan	2nd Reading 2 Peter 1:16-21 Tim Splinter	
Acolytes	Julie Canan & Phillip Crouse		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Irene Machisko		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Leslie & Paige Thomas		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor		
Loyalton	Maynard Evans		

Wednesday, February 6		7:00 PM	Ash Wednes-
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Carolyn Englert	Psalm 103
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		
Lay Reader	Bette Brooks	2nd Reading 2 Corinth.5:20b- 6:10 Steve Barna	
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren		
Acolytes	Schylar Conway & Eric Splinter	Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin, & Irene Machisko		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor		

Sunday, February 10		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Lent 1
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Gordon Thompson	Psalm 32
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		
Lay Reader	Carolyn Englert	2nd Reading Romans 5:12-19 Kathy Summy	
Greeters	Jim & Nancy Ervin		
Acolytes	Sammy Stickle	Gospel Matthew 4:1-11	
Coffee Hosts	8:00 AM Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 AM John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin, & Irene Machisko		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor		
Loyalton	Bill Snyder		



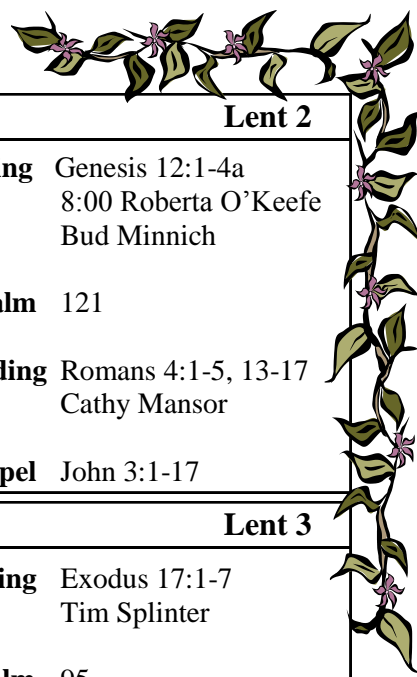
**Ash Wednesday
Services**
Noon & 7:00pm
February 6th



Bishop's Visitation
February 24th
10:00am
(only one service)

Bishop Arthur Williams will be here for confirmation on Sunday, February 24th. A covered dish lunch will follow, so please sign up in the Parish Hall.

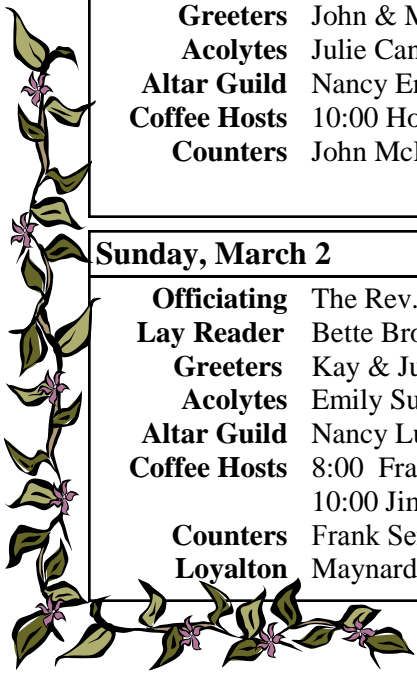




Sunday, February 17		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Lent 2
Officiating	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Genesis 12:1-4a 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe Bud Minnich Psalm 121 2nd Reading Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Cathy Mansor Gospel John 3:1-17	
Lay Reader	Maynard Evans		
Greeters	Bud Minnich & Leslie Thomas		
Acolytes	Emily Summy & Taylor Paxton		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin, & Irene Machisko		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA 10:00 Kay & Judy Canan		
Counters	Cory Conway & Bette Brooks		
Loyalton	Bill Snyder		

Sunday, February 24		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Lent 3
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans & Bishop Arthur Williams	1st Reading Exodus 17:1-7 Tim Splinter Psalm 95 2nd Reading Romans 5:1-11 Carolyn Englert Gospel John 4:5-42	
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		
Lay Reader	Judy Canan		
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Acolytes	Julie Canan & Phillip Crouse		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Irene Machisko		
Coffee Hosts	10:00 Hospitality Committee		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor		

Sunday, March 2		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Lent 4
Officiating	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Steve Barna Psalm 23 2nd Reading Ephesians 5:8-14 Judy Canan Gospel John 9:1-41	
Lay Reader	Bette Brooks		
Greeters	Kay & Julie Canan		
Acolytes	Emily Summy & Taylor Paxton		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Cindy Hoskins, & Shirley Johnson		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Jim & Nancy Ervin		
Counters	Frank Seman & Roberta O'Keefe		
Loyalton	Maynard Evans		



Birthdays

- 2nd—Dale Espey
- 3rd—David Golec
- 9th—Janice Lallathin
- 10th—Gary Bell
- 13th—Gladys Parsons
- 16th—Nancy Lundgren
- 21st—Irene Machisko
- 29th—Fred Lundgren



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

- 13th—Sonja & Don Sherwood



Baptisms

- 10th—Janell & Jesse Moore
- 11th—Nancy Ervin
- 11th—Gary Bell
- 14th—Emily Summy
- 20th—Kirsten Seman



Did You Know?...



Hospitals have been in our news lately, I'm sorry to say.

Little **Faith Postlethwaite** had open heart surgery on the 17th of January and is doing much better, but **Kelly and Ron** are bringing her home to a house full of children with the flu...

Irene and John Machisko both had surgery, John on his shoulder and Irene on her knee, they will be heading for Florida to recuperate...

Larry Thomas was scheduled for back surgery, but it's been postponed, much to his chagrin...

Kathy Summy's mother is on the mend from her surgery...

Louise Thacker has spent too much time in the hospital with her back and will be going to assisted living for some extended care...

Bernice McCauslin had surgery on her leg...

Judy Canan had bowel surgery and is now doing much better...

Nydah Ellet had a knee replaced and is also doing well (we're looking forward to having you back in the choir)

...
Even our pets haven't been spared, **Nola, Perry & Pat's Williams lab**, had a cancerous tumor removed...

Our prayers are with all of you and your families...

On the bright side we heard from **Phyllis Shorts** and she wrote to say that **Bill** in back on the golf course and played 18 holes of golf at least three times, which is really good news, and more good news, their son **Bill** came down to spent some time with them...

Judy Watkins wrote to say that **Roger** is doing well, but keep him your prayers...

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 20th. The weather didn't cooperate, but then it never does, it seems to happen every year. But as usual **The Rev. Carol** conducted a great meeting. After reports from the Rector, Senior & Junior Wardens and Treasurer were given, gift certificates were presented as thank you's to outgoing Vestry members: **Dennis Dier, Pat Williams, and Blake Quay**, to **Ken Boydell** for the many years he worked on the monthly statements, and to **Blake Quay** for his work as Volunteers Coordinator. Blake did announce that, for personal reasons, he will be unable to continue as Volunteer Coordinator and asked if there was anyone interest, please let him know...

Bette Brooks commented that at the Diocesan Convention it was wonderful NOT being one of the many churches that hadn't turned in either the Parochial

Report, Audit, paid assessments, or one of the many other items that is required by the diocese, and that made their delegates ineligible to vote. She continued to say that most of the credit goes to the great job done by our treasurer, **Fred Lundgren**. Thanks Fred, I know we don't say it enough...

We also thank the Hospitality Committee who did a wonderful job with the covered dish luncheon: **Nancy & Jim Ervin, Betty Capriola, Mary Jean & John McDonald, Irene Machisko, and Leslie Thomas**..

One of the things we do at for the annual meeting is vote for new vestry members and this year they are: **Fred Lundgren, Roberta O'Keefe, and Marcia Splinter**; and **Barbara Popiel**, was voted back on to the Beatty Committee. The vestry officers for 2008 are: **Bette Brooks**, Senior Warden; **John McDonald**, Junior Warden; and **Roberta O'Keefe**, Clerk of Vestry. Congratulations to everyone...

Barb Popiel spent a few days in Orlando visiting with her daughter and son-in-law, **Michelle and Dave**. The weather was great except for January 1 & 2 when it was in the 30's. Michelle had her winter coat and scarf on and Barb just laughed at her...

Nancy Ervin wanted to thank those who brought towels and washcloths for the kitchen...

We heard from **Jean Mercer** and she was excited to share that grandson **Ian** entered an art contest sponsored by Raleigh National Arts Council and won. He painted an abstract work he called Mermaid and Divers. He was the only child to win and he also received \$50 along with his award. Sounds like his a bit like his dad. **John** is a wonderful artist...

Josh Crouse has signed up for the Ohio National Guard, the choir will miss him when he's gone. But, hopefully he'll join us when he's here...

The picture of the **Barna's grandson** in his tuxedo is just about the cutest things you'll ever see. But, he does look a lot like his dad **Matt**...

Marsha Snyder is headed for Minnesota to see her new grandson, **Oliver William**, born on December 12 to son and daughter-in-law, **Luke and Alex Snyder**. And she can't wait to see him, and hug him, and kiss him, and squeeze him, and love him.....

Any information you would like to see in the Did You Know please give it to Tim Splinter or Marsha Snyder.

On the Horizon

Tuesday February 5th Fun-draising Meeting 7pm

We could really use a couple more people on this committee (and some fresh ideas!), so please join us if you are able. With a \$22,000 deficit, we need all the help we can get!!!

Saturday February 9th Fellowship & Game Night 6:30pm

Come on in for our monthly fun! Bring your game, your cards, your favorite snack, or just yourself! We are at Conway's this month.

Saturday March 8th Fellowship & Game Night 6:30pm

Come on in for our monthly fun! Bring your game, your cards, your favorite snack, or just yourself!

Sunday March 16th Evensong at Christ Hudson 5:00pm

Anyone wishing to carpool, contact Marcia Splinter

May 10th 2008 Flower Sale

This was an amazing success last year and we hope to do even better this year. Look for "new and improved" pre-order sheets in early April. Every order helps and they really do add up quickly.

May 17th 2008 Men's Garage Sale

Cedar Hills 2008 Schedule

Day Camp (gr 2-3) June 15-20
Children's Camp (gr 3-4)
June 22-24 or 25-27
Intermediate Camp (gr 5-6)
June 29-July 3 or July 6-11
Middler Camp (gr 6-7) July 13-18
Middler Camp (gr 7-8) July 20-25
Senior High Event (gr 9-12) Aug 3-8

Quiet Days June 7 & Sept 6
Advent Quiet Day Dec 13

Cedar Hills also has numerous opportunities for volunteers from hospitality services to occasional skilled trades.

For details, check with Marsha in the office or look for Cedar Hills at the Diocese Website,
www.dohio.org.

A Lenten Fast

Fasting is an ancient spiritual discipline but I would like to suggest that as a Lenten discipline, we engage in a spiritual fasting, as outlined in the following anonymous meditation. As you go through Lent, concentrate on a different one each day.

*Fast from judging others;
 feast on Christ dwelling in them.*
*Fast from fear of illness;
 feast on the healing power of God.*
*Fast from words that pollute;
 feast on speech that purifies.*
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
Fast from negatives; feast on alternatives.
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.
Fast from gossip; feast on purposeful silence.
*Fast from problems that overwhelm;
 feast on prayer that sustains.*
Fast from worry; feast on faith

-from the Anglican Digest,
the Rev. Colleen O'Connor,
St. Mark's, LeRoy, NY

The Bulletin Board

I realized I never put out the answers for the Christmas Song Quiz...

1. Small City in Judea – Oh Little Town of Bethlehem
2. Colorless Yuletide – White Christmas
3. Singular Yearning for Twin Anterior Incisors
– All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth
4. Righteous Darkness – Oh Holy Night
5. Loyal Followers Advance – O Come All Ye Faithful
6. Weather: Cloudless; Arrival Time: 2400 Hours
– It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
7. Far Off in a Feeder – Away in a Manger
8. Array the Corridors – Deck the Halls
9. Bantam Percussionist – Little Drummer Boy
10. Monarchical Triad – We Three Kings
11. Nocturnal Noiselessness – Silent Night
12. Red Man en route to Borough – Santa Claus is Coming to Town
13. Initial Christmas – The First Noel
14. Frozen Precipitation Commence – Let it Snow
15. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle – Go Tell it on the Mountain
16. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis
– Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer
17. Query Regarding Identity of Descendant – What Child is This
18. Delight for the Planet – Joy to the World
19. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings
– Hark the Herald Angels
20. Hence Arriveth Kris Kringle – Here Comes Santa Claus
21. To Decry the Matriarchal Osculation Yuletide Anthropomorphism
– I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
22. At the Zenith of the Habitat – Up on the House Top
23. Endocarp Sweltering in a Conflagration
– Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire (The Christmas Song)
24. Jehovah Dulcify Blithe C... – O Best Ye Merry Gentlemen

Garage sales have been very successful fundraisers for the last couple of years, and we are considering a couple of options for this year. Please let me know if you (or your family & friends) have items to donate and/or if you would be interested in getting a table if we run one in the parish hall. The feedback we get in the next few weeks will determine what we do (if anything).

Marcia Splinter 330-527-2084
marcia@splinterfactions.net

Josh Crouse has enlisted in the National Guard. He will be doing weekend drillings starting in Feb. or March. His parents Denise and David are very proud of him and would like for everyone to keep him in their prayers during his time away. He is really excited about doing this and is really going to miss everyone.

Chris Stickle